

THIS VERSION OF THE 1989 COLORADO RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN WAS REPRINTED IN DECEMBER 2000. IT CONTAINS ALL THE TEXT AND GRAPHICS FROM THE ORIGINAL 1989 VERSION.

**COLORADO RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR
GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK**

| | | |
|-----------------|---|------------------------|
| RECOMMENDED BY: | <u>John Davis</u> Superintendent, Grand Canyon NP | <u>9/5/89</u> Date |
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COLORADO RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN

I. PREFACE

The Colorado River in the Grand Canyon provides a thoroughly unique combination of thrilling whitewater adventure and magnificent vistas of a remarkable geologic landscape deeply incised by remote and intimate side canyons. The river's flow is regulated by Glen Canyon Dam, located just upstream from the Grand Canyon. The combination of erratic snowfall patterns and summer monsoons make the river corridor an extremely dynamic environment. The floor of the Grand Canyon is a narrow channel of Sonoran Desert life, snaking along a mile beneath the rim's coniferous forests. The flora and desert creatures that inhabit the inner canyon are beautifully adapted to the rigors of their harsh, variable environment. For these reasons a Grand Canyon river trip is perhaps the most sought after backcountry experience in the country, and nearly 21,000 visitors share that experience annually.

The purpose of the Colorado River Management Plan (CRMP) is to address and resolve major issues surrounding the management of recreational use activities within the Colorado River corridor of Grand Canyon National Park and mitigate the environmental impacts associated with those activities. The purpose of this plan is to supplement existing management guidelines and directives, including but not limited to the 1976 Master Plan for Grand Canyon National Park, the Backcountry Management Plan, the Natural and Cultural Resources Management Plan, the Aircraft Management Plan, the Water Resources Management Plan, the Land Protection Plan, the Supplement to the Regional Contingency Plan for the Colorado River for oil and hazardous substance spills, and other significant management guidelines identified on page 7 of this document. Furthermore, this plan will serve to update and revise the 1981 Colorado River Management Plan.

The Colorado River Management Plan is organized into six sections. The first five sections cover the historical perspective, goals of the plan, management objectives, summary of management changes, and a summary of the CRMP review. The sixth section consists of eight appendices. These appendices are part of the CRMP and have been separated for organizational purposes. Appendix C, the Commercial Operating Requirements, is a legally binding document which is referred to in the concession contracts.

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A. INTRODUCTION AND HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The Colorado River drains nearly one-twelfth of the continental United States as it cuts west at the southern edge of the Colorado Plateau and traverses the Grand Canyon area. For the next 277 miles, the Colorado River courses through some of the most spectacular scenery in North America. As a scientific resource, Grand Canyon is a mecca for geologists, geographers, and biologists throughout the world. It is also a place of tremendous natural and historic interest; a place of beauty, peace, quiet, or exciting adventure.

Best known for its geologic significance, the Grand Canyon offers a beautifully layered record covering the first three eras of geological time, nearly 2 billion years. It is one of the most complete continuous records of geological history anywhere in the world. Other important resources include scenic vistas, unique wildlife and vegetation, and historic and archaeological artifacts. The Colorado River through Grand Canyon National Park, the longest stretch of recreational whitewater in the world, offers one of the most sought-after river trips in the United States as well.

Recreational use along the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon is concentrated within the riparian zone and on beaches. The time and location of visitor use in the river corridor is uneven, causing high density levels at certain locations throughout the river corridor. Crowding and congestion at attraction sites have not only impacted resources, but also the river trip experience for many visitors. Popular sites include geologic features, side canyons, archaeological and historical sites, caves, waterfalls, and unusual vegetation. The most popular attraction sites are marred by multiple trails, trampled vegetation, and compacted soils.

The desire of the American public to experience this unique area has dramatically increased over the last 20 years. In 1967, 2,100 people traveled the river through Grand Canyon National Park. The number of recreational river users rose dramatically to 16,500 in 1972. This sudden rise in use was noticeably impacting the vulnerable inner canyon ecosystem. Trash, charcoal, and human waste were accumulating, multiple trails were developing to points of interest, and the numerous prehistoric and historic sites near the river were being damaged.

The above problems were a direct result of the increase in recreational use of the area. In 1973, twenty-one commercial boating companies and noncommercial river runners carried more than 15,000 people through the river corridor, an increase of almost 700 percent in 6 years. Colorado River use for 1972 alone exceeded the 100-year period from 1870 through 1969.

Until the completion of the first dam on the Colorado River, the river remained fundamentally unchanged. Then, in 1935, Lake Mead, behind Hoover Dam, flooded the lower sections of the Grand Canyon up to Separation Canyon. The upper reaches of the canyon remained in a natural state until Glen Canyon Dam was completed in 1963.

Both Hoover Dam and Glen Canyon Dam have had profound impacts on river running through the Grand Canyon. Lake Mead extended into the lower section of the canyon, producing slack water that marked the end of the free-flowing Colorado. Formerly, river runners had been able to float the entire length of the river to Pearce Ferry. With the advent of Lake Mead, trips had to take out 55 miles upriver at Diamond Creek or traverse the slack water of the lake to Pearce Ferry.

Glen Canyon Dam's effects have been more dynamic and dramatic. The amount of sediment and driftwood carried naturally along the river's course through the canyon has been significantly reduced.

Water releases from Glen Canyon Dam have created more predictable seasonal water levels, but have resulted in extreme daily fluctuations. As a result, canyon beaches, which provide campsites for river runners, no longer receive sufficient replacement sediments and are subject to erosion by the erratic daily flows. During periods of low water release from the dam, passage at certain rapids has become difficult, creating hazards and delays. Heavy spring runoff no longer scours the river's banks, and this has allowed a new ecosystem to develop in the pre-dam flood zone.

The attainment of National Park Service mandates and management objectives relative to managing the Colorado River are also dependent on evaluating the effects of alternative operational scenarios at Glen Canyon Dam on key resource conditions. Those include water, sediment, vegetation, channel morphology, and archaeological resources and their dependent uses: fish, wildlife, recreation, aesthetics, and education. To support this process, the second phase of Glen Canyon Environmental Studies are keyed to the scientific and economic evaluation of alternative management scenarios.

Prior to the influx of river runners and the advent of dams, the river required very little active management by the National Park Service (NPS). However, by the early 1970's it was apparent that a comprehensive river management plan was needed. In 1973 the NPS initiated a research program and planning process leading to the development of the Colorado River Management Plan in 1979. At this time the user day allocation concept was formulated and implemented. Any portion of a day a river user spends on a river trip is defined as a user day.

The 1979 Colorado River Management Plan and its associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) were finalized and approved by the NPS, through the process mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Congressional response to components of the 1979 Plan was negative when, in 1980, the Hatch Amendment was passed as an element of the Fiscal Year 1981 Department of the Interior Appropriations Bill. The amendment prohibited a reduction of summer season user days or passenger launches for commercial motorized craft below 1978 levels.

Based on passage of this amendment, the NPS developed the 1981 Colorado River Management Plan to allow a diversity of river running experiences in Grand Canyon National Park. While some re-evaluation of management goals has taken place, the preservation of the Grand Canyon and the Colorado River for future generations has remained a primary objective of this plan.

Scientific research, public input, historic considerations, and interpretation of legislative mandates have placed the current levels of commercial and noncommercial user days at an aggregate total of 169,950. One user day equals one person on the river for any portion of one day. The NPS reserves the right to add or subtract, allocate or reallocate user days based on review of all relevant factors. Current allocations are as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Commercial Sector: | Primary Season - | 106,156 user days |
| | Secondary Season - | <u>9,344</u> user days |
| | Total - | 115,500 user days |
| Noncommercial Sector | Primary Season | 43,920 user days |
| | Secondary Season - | <u>10,530</u> user days |
| | Total - | 54,450 user days |

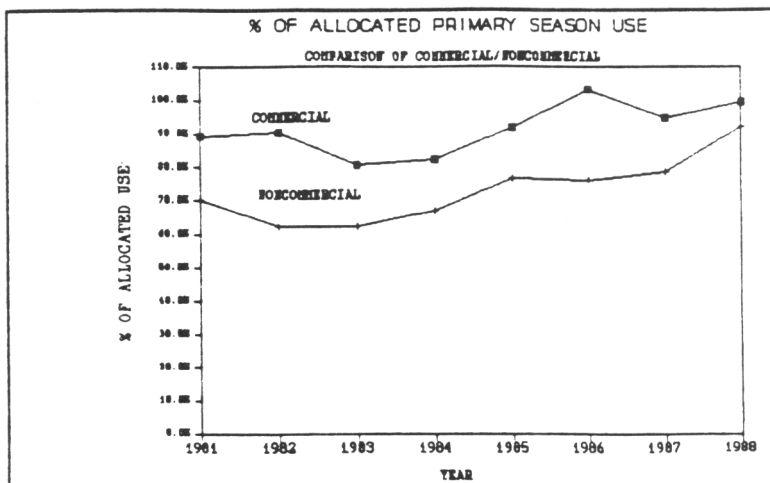
The seasons are defined as follows:

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Commercial Sector: | Primary Season - | May 1 through September 30 |
| | Secondary Season - | October 1 through April 30 |
| Noncommercial Sector: | Primary Season - | April 16 through October 15 |
| | Secondary Season - | October 16 through April 15 |

B. GRAPHICS INDICATING USE TRENDS

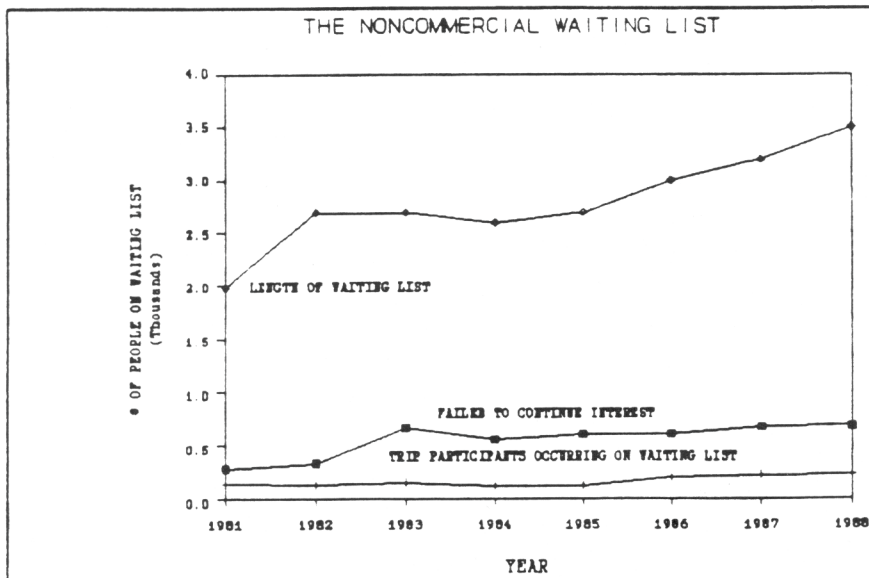
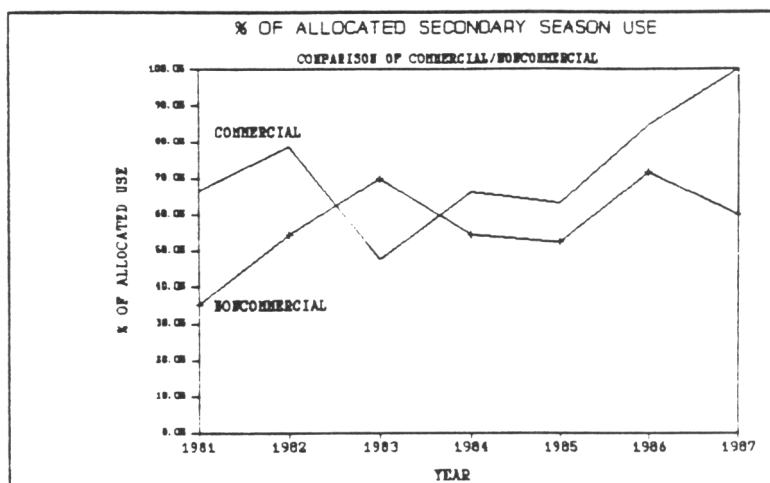
The following graphs indicate use patterns since the 1981 Colorado River Management Plan.

Refinement of scheduling processes and the establishment of a user-day pool in 1983 have resulted in maximization of allotted use for the commercial sector. The noncommercial sector has demonstrated the ability to use all of their allotted launch dates; however, 20% of the noncommercial allocation was not available due to the fixed number of launch dates. The review of the 1981 Colorado River Management Plan indicated the need to provide an equal means for the noncommercial sector to access their defined allocation.

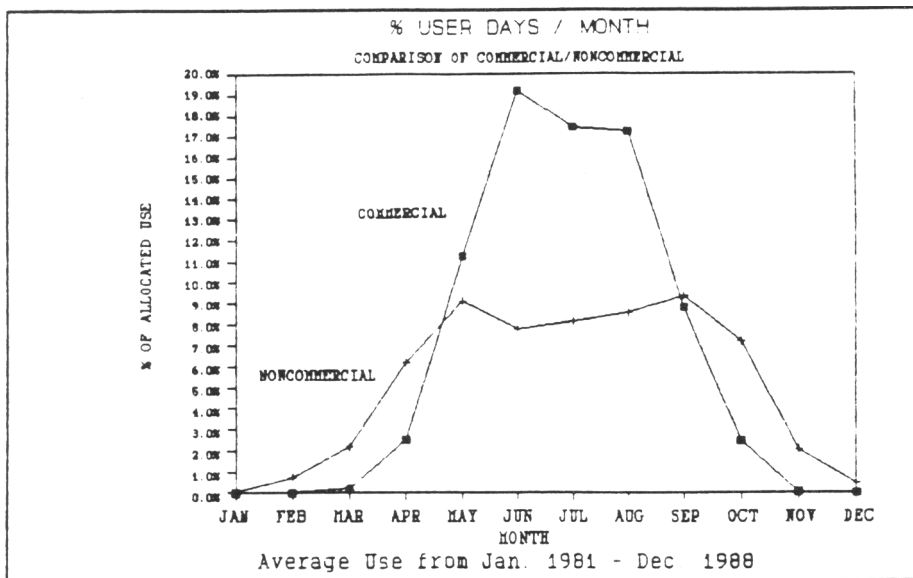


These two seasonal graphs indicate percentage of use based on each sector's allocation. User-day allocations are as follows:

| | Primary Season | Secondary Season |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Commercial | 106,156 | 9,344 |
| Noncommercial | 43,920 | 10,530 |

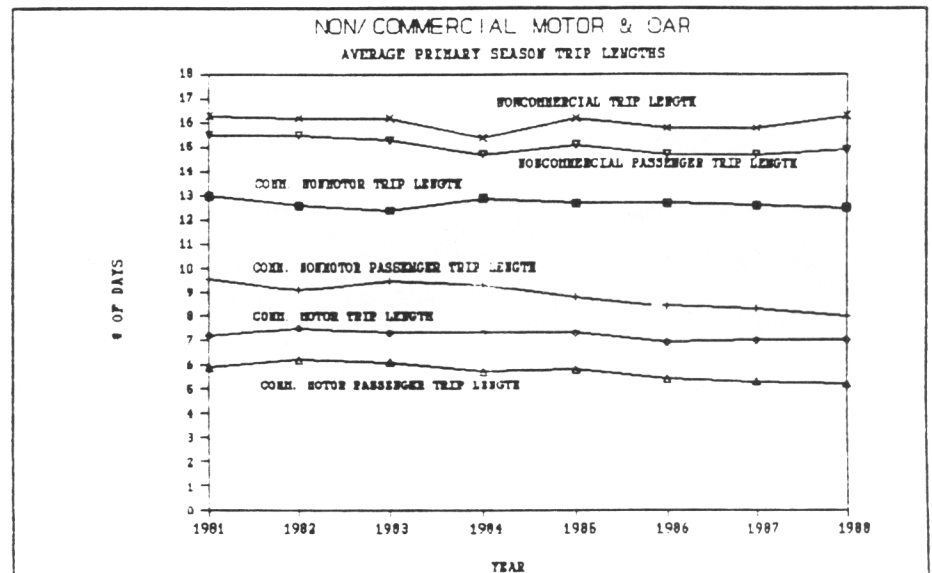


The waiting list has increased 77% since 1981, even though those on the list must continue their interest to remain on the list annually and those participating in other noncommercial trips are deleted from the list. The intent of the above policies is to promote integrity of the list; however, additional policies are needed. Therefore, a fee of \$25 will be required to be added to the list. A fee of \$50 will be required with the return of the application to ensure the noncommercial party will utilize their launch date.

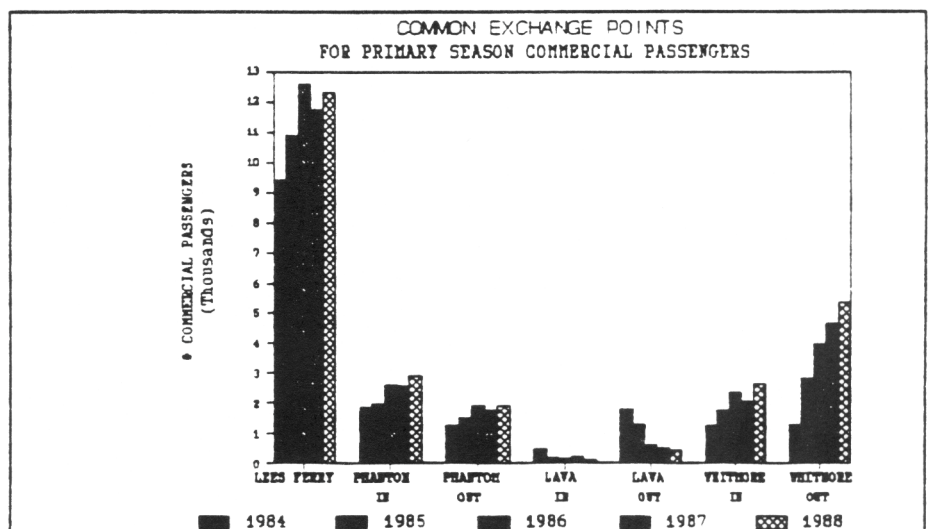


The average use per month for the commercial and noncommercial sectors is indicated in the graph to the left. The percentage is based on each sector's allotted annual use.

Commercial passenger trip lengths have declined since 1984. This is correlated with increased usage of passenger exchange points at the Whitmore Wash helicopter pad and Phantom Ranch.



The Hualapai tribe began allowing helicopter flights on tribal land in 1985 after the mule concession discontinued service on Whitmore trail. The Lava Falls helicopter pad was the only exchange point using helicopters prior to 1985. Since the Whitmore Wash helicopter pad has been in use, 432 of all commercial passengers utilized helicopter travel in connection with their river trip.



C. LEGISLATIVE AND PLANNING INFLUENCES

Grand Canyon National Park was officially established as a "public park for the benefit and enjoyment of the people" on February 26, 1919. In 1975, the park was enlarged "in order to further protect and interpret the outstanding scenic, natural, and scientific values".

In all, approximately 20 pieces of legislation contributed to the establishment of Grand Canyon National Park and direct the protection of wildlife, objects of unusual scientific interest, geologic and paleontological features and objects, and other scientific and natural values.

Management of recreational boating on the Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park is influenced directly by legislative mandates. The most significant is the National Park Service Act of 1916 (also known as the Organic Act) which established the mission of the agency:

"...The service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations, hereinafter specified, by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of said parks, monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and natural and historic objects and wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired."

The act of Congress which established Grand Canyon National Park in 1919 included only a portion of the canyon and river corridor. This was modified by the Grand Canyon Enlargement Act of 1975. This act added Marble Canyon National Monument, Grand Canyon National Monument, and portions of Lake Mead National Recreation Area to Grand Canyon National Park. All of the Colorado River corridor within Grand Canyon, except adjacent Indian tribal lands on the Navajo, Havasupai, and Hualapai Reservations, is now within the park boundary.

The Grand Canyon National Park Master Plan also contains statements which directly influence management of the Colorado River, including:

"...preservation of the Grand Canyon natural environment is the fundamental requirement for its continued use and enjoyment as an unimpaired natural area. Park management therefore looks first to the preservation and management of the natural resources of the park. The management concept is the preservation of total environments. as contrasted with the protection of only a single feature or species."

Additional legislation and executive orders which influence river management in the park include:

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)

The Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977

The American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978

The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979

The Hatch Amendment No. 1754 to the FY81 Department of the Interior Appropriations Bill

Public Law 100-91 of 1987 (regarding aircraft management) Public Law 95-250 of 1978

Executive Order 11593

Executive Order 11987

The amendment to the congressional act that established Redwood National Park in 1978 reinforced the intent of legislation passed on August 18, 1970 which reaffirmed the mandate that all areas of the NPS were to be regulated consistently with the Organic Act. This law directed the Secretary of the Interior to afford the highest standard of protection and care to the resources of the National Park system. It stated that no decisions could be made in derogation of park values and purposes except as Congress may have specifically provided.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 required all federal land management agencies to re-examine their resources for possible wilderness classification. In 1976, the National Park Service prepared a draft environmental statement (ES) and preliminary wilderness proposal which was reviewed by the public. A recommendation was forwarded to the Department of the Interior in 1980 which proposed 980,088 acres, or approximately 80% of the park, for immediate wilderness designation. Further, 131,814 acres, or approximately 11% of the park, were proposed as potential wilderness additions. Action on this recommendation is still pending.

Several additional regional and park management plans directly influence the management of the Colorado River environment. These include but are not limited to:

- The 1976 Master Plan for Grand Canyon National Park
- The Natural and Cultural Resources Management Plan
- The Backcountry Management Plan
- The Aircraft Management Plan
- The Water Resources Management Plan
- The Land Protection Plan
- The Supplement to the Regional Contingency Plan for the Colorado River
(Addressing oil and hazardous substance spills)

Encompassing a total of 1,215,734.64 acres, the park is bounded on the north by national forest, public domain lands, and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, on the east by the Navajo Indian Reservation, on the south by national forest and Hualapai and Havasupai Indian Reservation lands, and on the west by the upper reaches of Lake Mead National Recreation Area. The park is located within Coconino and Mohave Counties. These adjacent land management entities also affect the management of the Colorado River through Grand Canyon National Park.

D. PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATE

The Colorado River Management Plan will be in effect for a five to ten year period. A comprehensive plan review, directed by the Superintendent through the Division of Visitor and Resources Protection and the Division of Resources Management and Planning, will occur before the end of this period.

This comprehensive review process will incorporate public meetings and comments, data from monitoring/research projects, visitor use statistics, NPS policies, federal rules and regulations, and legislated mandates. The purpose of the review will be to fully examine evolving public concerns and develop far-reaching programs needed to protect natural and cultural resources and environmental processes, thereby enhancing the opportunity for park visitors to have a quality experience.

The Colorado River Management Plan will also be responsive, on an annual basis, to results of research, monitoring programs, and public and constituent group input. This annual review will primarily be concerned with the annual Noncommercial and Commercial Operating Requirements, which are dynamic in nature. Public input and research or monitoring program results may indicate that occasional changes in operational procedures may be necessary. These changes, after consideration by the park, will be initiated with the issuance of the Annual Operating Requirements prior to April 1st of each year. Changes that affect visitor safety or preservation of park resources may be initiated at the discretion of the Superintendent at any time.

Interested persons are encouraged to submit comments to the Superintendent for consideration at any time for use in the annual reviews.

II. THE GOALS OF THE COLORADO RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The basic goals of Grand Canyon National Park in the management of the Colorado River reflect those of the NPS as expressed in the National Park Service Act of 1916 and the Redwoods Act of 1978. These legislative mandates serve as the driving force behind management decisions in NPS areas across the nation. The goals of the Colorado River Management Plan are thus predicated on, and the result of, these mandates and management objectives. These goals are as follows:

- 1) To preserve the natural resources and environmental processes of the Colorado River corridor and the associated riparian and river environments.
- 2) To protect and preserve the historic and prehistoric cultural resources in the river corridor and associated environments subject to impact by visitor use or natural processes.
- 3) To provide Colorado River users the opportunity to participate in and appreciate a variety of the unique experiences offered by Grand Canyon National Park as a whole and by the riverine environment in particular.
- 4) To provide a quality Colorado River experience through Grand Canyon National Park:
 - a) by determining the impact of crowding and use levels on visitor experience (considering, trip size, number of contacts per day, visitor expectations, and time of year) through social science research;
 - b) by then establishing a human use capacity and a limitation on use based on the results of the above research and related management considerations; and
 - c) by managing visitor use to provide opportunities and settings for certain experiences and critical attributes as defined in the Limits of Acceptable Change guidelines found in this document (Appendix B).
- 5) To ameliorate social conflicts and activities which result in resource degradation involving backcountry and river users (especially in the upper Marble Canyon area).
- 6) To protect and preserve the river corridor environment within the National Park Service's ability to do so considering the unpredictable and therefore unmanageable effects of Glen Canyon Dam. This goal will be attained through interagency cooperative efforts in management of downstream resources.
- 7) To provide opportunities for people of most ages, abilities, and physical disabilities to participate in river trips.

III. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES OF THE COLORADO RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The management objectives of the Colorado River Management Plan acknowledge the natural, cultural, and experiential components which constitute the unique quality of a Grand Canyon river experience, including; solitude and natural quiet, hiking opportunities, the whitewater adventure, unique scenery and geologic features, wildlife and vegetative ecosystems in a natural condition, archaeological and historic features, and social and group interactions while on the river trip. These management objectives are governed by the preeminent NPS mandate of preserving the natural and cultural resources of the Colorado River within Grand Canyon National Park.

The following objectives (not in priority order) are designed to provide general guidance to park managers both conceptually and in the practical context of making decisions. Where applicable, certain management objectives are further defined and quantified in the Limits of Acceptable Change section (Appendix B) of this plan.

- 1) Research and Monitoring Program--Establish, design, and implement an integrated, long-term monitoring program to assess changes in the status of natural, cultural, and experiential resources.
 - a) This long-term monitoring program will require an integrated and standardized data base, statistical analyses, and management decision-making process.
 - b) This program will require definition of present resource status, and these data will serve as the baseline against which changes will be measured.
 - c) Results from the monitoring program will be reviewed each year to assist in evaluating the effectiveness of operational procedures.
- 2) Social Science Research--Initiate social science research to develop visitor profiles and user expectations for the Colorado River whitewater experience.
- 3) Glen Canyon Dam Operations--Advocate and support operational objectives for the Glen Canyon Dam which are most compatible with protection of the intrinsic resources of the Colorado River within Grand Canyon National Park. Furthermore, promote seasonal water releases which are consistent with the requirements of a safe, high quality, whitewater rafting experience. The attainment of NPS mandates and management objectives, relative to managing the Colorado River, is dependent on implementation of alternative management of Glen Canyon Dam; adequate development of which is in turn dependent on the study of operational alternatives determined by the Glen Canyon Environmental Studies (GCES) and the NEPA process.
- 4) Off-river Activities--Allow for visitation to attraction sites, for hiking side canyons, and for general off-river time versus on-river time.
- 5) Natural Experience--Provide the opportunity to experience solitude, quiet, and the unique and natural environment of the canyon.
- 6) Safety--Maximize river safety by determining and enforcing regulations regarding boat operations and equipment standards. These regulations must be adequate to minimize injuries and accidents due to equipment failure or craft design.

- 7) Fishing--Allow fishing as a recreational activity only if it does not adversely impact or jeopardize any threatened or endangered species inhabiting the river or dependent on river resources. Such species include humpback chub, and bald eagles.
- 8) Research--All scientific research will be in compliance with the research guidelines for the National Park Service and Grand Canyon National Park. To ensure compliance, researchers using the Colorado River will be required to make research available to the National Park Service in a timely manner.
- 9) Pre-trip Information--Provide NPS-approved trip information to confirmed clients of park concessioners which accurately describes trip size, trip length, and boat capacity. Concessioners will be required to provide this information to all passengers, thus aiding the planning process by comparing visitor trip expectations to their actual experiences.
- 10) Crowding and Congestion--If desired, parties will have the opportunity to avoid crowded areas and/or attraction sites, regardless of season, and find other places they do not have to share with any other group. Within existing user day allocations and seasonal distribution patterns, river users must expect to share high-use areas with at least one other group during the primary season. If deemed necessary and functionally effective, a computerized launch model may be used to reduce the frequency of trip contact to levels consistent with the park's general objectives of reducing crowding at attraction sites and of reducing competition for overnight camps.
- 11) Health, Sanitation, and Water Quality Guidelines--Implement and enforce all state and local public health and sanitation standards for all trips on the river. Maintain, to the extent possible, water quality in side streams and river to comply with state, county, and national health standards.
- 12) Commercial Guide Education--Continue to encourage concessioner support and guide participation in a yearly, park-sponsored Guide's Educational Seminar. This will enhance knowledge of park regulations and Annual Commercial Operating Requirements, as well as enhance their knowledge of the natural and cultural history of the park and the river corridor.
- 13) Spectrum of Opportunities--Maintain the opportunity for visitors to select commercial or noncommercial river trips offered on a variety of watercraft powered either by oars or motors.

IV. SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT CHANGES SINCE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1981 COLORADO RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN (CRMP)

Following is a brief summary of policy, regulatory, and administrative changes that have been or will be instituted as part of the Colorado River Management Plan revision.

Subject/Change: Guide Certification

Implementation Date: 1988 Primary Commercial Season

Duration: Permanent

Policy Description: All commercial guides carrying passengers for hire on the Colorado River through Grand Canyon National Park will be required to pass a written exam based on the Annual Commercial Operating Requirements.

Subject/Change: Limit on Commercial Trip Size

Implementation Date: 1987 Primary Commercial Season

Duration: Temporary

Policy Description: The 1981 Colorado River Management Plan established an upper limit of 36 commercial passengers traveling and camping together on one commercial river trip. During the 1987 and 1988 primary commercial river seasons that limit was raised to 40 passengers on a temporary basis. Based upon evaluation of all input related to crowding and congestion problems in the river corridor during the Primary Season, the limit is restored to 36.

Subject/Change: Commercial Maximum Trip Speed

Implementation Date: 1989 Commercial Season

Duration: Permanent

Policy Description: Maximum trip speed allowed shall average no more than 40 miles per day and may not travel farther than 50 miles in any one day except in an emergency or when necessitated by water releases from Glen Canyon Dam which create unforeseen travel requirements.

Subject/Change: Commercial Deadhead Trips

Implementation Date: 1990 Commercial Season

Duration: Permanent

Policy Description: Commercial trips traveling downriver with empty boats for the purpose of picking up passengers at Phantom Ranch or Whitmore Wash will be required to expedite travel to those destinations. These boats will not be allowed to stop at attraction sites. and will be required to use smaller. less popular camps. On days that deadhead trips depart Lees Ferry, the number of passengers being picked up downriver will be counted against that day's commercial passenger launch limit.

Subject/Change: Commercial Secondary Season Use

Implementation Date: 1989 Commercial Secondary Season

Duration: Permanent

Policy Description: This plan awards all historical users their average allocation from October 1, 1981 through April 30, 1987. If a company failed to average over 300 user days, they were allotted a base allocation of 300 user days. All 20 companies have been given an equal share of the remaining user days, and the minimum user days allocated per company is 343.

Subject/Change: Administrative Charges for Noncommercial Users

Implementation Date: 1990 Noncommercial Season

Duration: Permanent

Policy Description: Applicants to the noncommercial waiting list will be required to pay \$25 in order to be placed on the list. All trip leaders will be required to pay \$50 upon return of their noncommercial river trip permit application to the River Permits Office. Both charges will be non-refundable and non-transferable. These charges are being established by authority of 36 CFR 71.10, Sec. 1-6, Special Recreation Permits and Special Recreation Permit Fees.

Subject/Change: Scheduling of Noncommercial Launch Dates

Implementation Date: 1990 Noncommercial Season

Duration: Permanent

Policy Description: Noncommercial launch dates will be scheduled two years in advance. Each year a sufficient number of waiting list applicants will be contacted in order to fill available launch dates for two years (Primary and Secondary Seasons).

Subject/Change: Noncommercial Supplemental Launches and Resultant Effects on Commercial Launch Calendar

Implementation Date: 1988 Noncommercial Primary Season

Policy Description: In order to more fully utilize the existing noncommercial allocation in the Primary Season, 38 additional noncommercial launches have been added. Beginning in the 1989 Noncommercial Primary Season, one supplemental launch will be scheduled per week. On the supplemental launch day, the commercial launch limit will be held to 134 passengers. During the Secondary Season, 12 additional launches will be scheduled.

Subject/Change: Noncommercial Continuing Interest and Participant Rules

Implementation Date: 1990 Noncommercial Season

Duration: Permanent

Policy Description: All applicants to the noncommercial waiting list will be allowed to miss one continuing interest deadline and may participate in one noncommercial river trip other than their own for the duration of the time they are on the list.

Subject/Change: Call-in System/Filling of Open Noncommercial Launch Dates

Implementation Date: 1990 Noncommercial Season

Duration: Permanent

Policy Description: Any noncommercial date in the upcoming season which is not filled by the initial launch system, or which opens due to cancellation, will be filled by the River Subdistrict Office. The office will contact applicants at the top of the list by phone and/or in writing. If a date is not filled by either of these methods, the date may be claimed by anyone on the waiting list under the Call-in System Guidelines, as defined in Appendix D of this document.

Subject/Change: Noncommercial Deferral Policy

Implementation Date: 1990 Noncommercial Season

Duration: Permanent

Policy Description: Noncommercial waiting list applicants will not have the option of deferring their launch date by one year.

Subject/Change: Noncommercial User Day Pool

Implementation Date: 1989 Noncommercial Primary Season

Duration: Permanent

Policy Description: Noncommercial user days which become available due to trips with fewer than the maximum allowed participants or river days will become available through an NPS administered pool. As sufficient days become available, additional noncommercial launches will be scheduled as supplemental launches throughout the Primary and Secondary Seasons.

Subject/Change: Lower Gorge Management

Implementation Date: January 1990

Duration: Temporary pending development of Colorado River Lower Gorge Management Plan.

Policy Description: Use in the lower gorge below Diamond Creek will be monitored and regulated to determine future management needs. Interim guidelines have been designed to regulate use coming upriver from Lake Mead during development of a comprehensive Colorado River Lower Gorge Management Plan. These Guidelines are contained in Appendix F of this document.

Subject/Change: River Trips Conducted for Research Purposes

Implementation Date: December 1989

Duration: Permanent

Policy Description: Research trips conducted on the Colorado River will be required to submit research proposals and justifications for each trip member's participation prior to launch. Following completion of each trip, a brief report of trip activities must be submitted to Grand Canyon National Park in a timely manner. Published research results must be submitted to the park as soon as they become available to the researcher.

V. SUMMARY OF 1987/1988 COLORADO RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Included in this section is a brief summary of the review process and public involvement plan that has been implemented since the initiation of the revision of the Colorado River Management Plan.

1987

March - CRMP review process commences with notification of over 4000 individuals, including media, interest groups, congressional delegations, and cooperating agencies.

June through July - Planning Guides mailed to over 1000 interested individuals to participate in identification of major issues.

July - Scoping session with advisory group comprised of river managers, recreation and social researchers and NPS managers. Session designed to target primary issues and potential changes to 1981 plan.

September - Due to the magnitude of interest and volume of comments (115 letters up to that date), the decision to expand and extend the revision process was announced.

September - Meetings with Grand Canyon commercial river guides in Flagstaff and Marble Canyon, Arizona to discuss guide certification program, resource management programs, and boat capacities. Approximately 50 were in attendance. December 1988, was established as the target completion date.

October - First meeting with park's Concessioner Steering Committee at Marble Canyon, Arizona. Contact and discussion with elected representatives of Colorado River commercial outfitters, including representatives from small, large, old, new, motor, and oar companies.

October - River Rendezvous, Telluride, Colorado. Approximately 200 people contacted, comprised primarily of noncommercial boating interests.

October - Annual Colorado River Concessioner's Meeting, Grand Canyon National Park. Issues discussed with the park's twenty commercial outfitters and company representatives.

1988

January - The mailing list exceeded 1,000 names of individuals and organizations interested in being involved in the review process. One hundred fifty written comments had been received, and the targeting of issues of greatest concern was begun. Thirty additional noncommercial launches ("supplemental launches") were added to the 1988 calendar on a trial basis.

January - Guide Certification Program instituted as an amendment to the Annual Commercial Operating Requirements.

February - Western River Guides Association Meeting, Denver, Colorado.

March - CRMP Issue Workbook developed from public comment and input and mailed to those on mailing list who requested one (approximately 400).

April - First public meeting in Flagstaff, Arizona. Approximately 34 people took advantage of workshop and formal comment opportunities.

May - Public meetings in Denver, Colorado and Reno, Nevada with about 50 people participating.

June - Over 50 completed workbooks returned by review/comment deadline.

July - Meeting with Concessioners' Steering Committee to discuss Draft Preferred Alternatives.

August - Meeting with Constituent Advisory Committee to discuss Draft Preferred Alternatives.

August - Draft Preferred Alternatives mailed for public review.

October - Attended River Rendezvous in Telluride, Colorado. Approximately 30 people contacted.

November - Draft 1988 Colorado River Management Plan distributed to over 500 individuals and organizations on mailing list. Draft open for comment for 30 days, until December 9, 1988.

December - Comment period extended to January 20, 1989.